



THE THREAD

weaving Sunday's message through the week

Date: September 29, 2019

Passage: Matthew 18

Theme: Issues—Forgiveness

1. Forgiveness from God for my sin (1 John 1:8–9)
 - a. We are all guilty before God because we sin.
 - b. God forgives and purifies those who confess their sin to him.
2. Forgiveness when I am at fault: I am to immediately pursue forgiveness from those whom I have wronged (Matthew 5:23–26).
3. Forgiveness when others have wronged me (Matthew 18:15–20):
 - a. Humbly and privately confront the Christian who sins against you so that fellowship may be restored (15).
 - b. If they refuse to repent, confront again with a couple of spiritual leaders and possibly bring it before the church through its leaders so that sin is removed (16–20).
4. Forgiveness when someone repeatedly sins against me (Matthew 18:21–35):
 - a. As believers in Christ for the forgiveness of our sins, we must recognize the magnitude of God's forgiveness of us.
 - b. We must imitate this forgiveness in our treatment of those who sin against us, repent, and ask our forgiveness.

Main Idea: Our (un)willingness to forgive those who wrong us demonstrates whether or not we have truly experienced God's forgiveness.

Application Questions:

•What does 1 John 1:8–9 teach us about sin, confession, and forgiveness? Give your definition of forgiveness.

•Why might a person struggle with “feeling” forgiven? If this has been you, what encouragement have you taken from the passages discussed here?

•Is there a difference between confession and repentance? How do they overlap and what might distinguish the two?

•In light of the sermon and these passages, how would you respond to the following statement: “Whether or not that person who sinned against me ever repents or confesses their sin to me, I have to forgive them in my heart?” Is it legitimate to personally and mentally forgive someone even if they don't confess their sin? Why might this be of benefit to the person?

•Wanting to show compassion for the situation and the hurt they may be experiencing, how would you respond to an individual that says, because of the magnitude of the sin that was committed, they will never forgive the person that has wronged them?

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